

**The
War 1914 - 1919
in the World**

Short overview in speeches
at the 1st Division evening in
Berlin - Zehlendorf on June 25, 1921

by

Sr. Ex. , the general of the artillery a. D. von Gallwitz
as introduction,

Sr. Ex., the General der Infanterie a. D. Albrecht
on the activities of the division in the field up to January 1917,

Sr. Ex., the Lieutenant General a. D. Tiede
on the activities of the division in Felde from January 1917 to the end of the war,
including Kurland.

With 2 portraits and 1 map

commemorative

writing ———

the former members of the 1st Guards Reserve Division

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Published at the suggestion of the former general staff officer of the 1st Guards
Reserve Division
Majors v. White (May 1915 to January 1918).

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Introduction.

Dear comrades! Our beautiful get-together on June 25, which refreshed the
memory of the war experiences, is to be followed by this small publication, in order

to consolidate this memory and to cultivate comradely cohesion, in which your two gentlemen, division commanders, talk about the experiences and actions, about fighting, winning and tolerating the magnificent 1st Guards Reserve Division want to report. I welcome this with joyful recognition.

The excited days of the outbreak of war reappear before our eyes, the bustle of mobilization, the farewell to the homeland. I can see before me again that touching scene when, on August 9, 1914, in the Lustgarten in Potsdam, His Majesty the Emperor and King took leave of his 1st Guard Regiment z. F. and his old guard, the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment. And I see us hurrying to the frontier in the steam-horse and marching into enemy's country. On dusty country roads they move along in the summer sun: the long marching columns, in them the magnificent figures of grenadiers, hunters, riflemen, dragoons, uhlans, gunners, pioneers and special formations. It is getting serious. We commemorate the great, proud baptism of fire in Namur, the journey east, the liberation of East Prussia, Altenburg, the road to Upper Silesia, the advance in Poland, Opatow, Ivangorod, the heavy defenses on the Vistula, the glorious day of Lipa, the fighting on the Silesian border, the advance to the Pilica. It was with pain that I witnessed the dissolution of the marvelous Guards Reserve Corps and parted with the proud division. But wherever I was allowed to continue to follow their paths, in East and West, in attack and defence, everywhere the same picture: Discipline and order, excellent bearing, supreme bravery, success - right up to the end, up to those horrible days of which the soldierly Feeling ashamed turns away. Blessed are the dead who did not have to see Our downfall!

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Old Guard! You can look back on your past with a clear conscience and justifiable pride. And if the ravens croak now, and one wants to spoil our noblest memories - we know why and for what we have served, fought and bled. We still honor what was; for us fidelity is not an empty illusion. We love our old clothes and remain in close companionship. We hold high the masculine virtues, from whose reawakening and nurturing alone a sunnier future can arise for our beloved German fatherland!

Berlin , September 25, 1921

B.C. Gallwitz
General of Artillery a. D.,
formerly Commanding General
of the Guards Reserve Corps.

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Speech

Sr. Er. of the General of the Infantry Albrecht,
once. Commanders of the 1st Guards Reserve Division.

When, in the first half of August 1914, the trains took us from Berlin to the Belgian border, it was newly formed regiments, newly formed formations, that faced difficult military tasks. But in these troops the old spirit of the main regiments, which each individual carried over to the young regiments, lived on, the old German, Prussian soldier spirit, which united and made our fatherland great, which was built on the love for the fatherland selflessly devoting one's own personality the enthusiastic, proud memory of everything that our fathers once did for our homeland, which was surrounded by rapacious neighbors at all times, a spirit that was also built on upbringing, discipline and a loyal sense of duty, that was borne by one all, leaders as well as Teams, embracing, unifying, unyielding camaraderie. So we drove towards the enemy with the proud, confident confidence in our own strength and capability. And then the successes achieved on the battlefields, the dangers, privations and efforts we had overcome together quickly forged the young troop units together into solid warheads, into companies, squadrons, batteries, who stood alongside their old regular troops of the Guard Corps, equal in spirit, equal in great, brilliant achievements.

And now let these achievements fly by in your memory once again:

Unloaded in the Eifel, after a few days we crossed the border towards Namur. At the Meuse crossing from Andenne we had to endure and fight off one of the most insidious, insidious attacks by Belgian civilians and Belgian soldiers dressed in civilian clothes. Namur was taken in a few days. We were following the leading guard corps when the command called us to East Prussia to support the army units fighting there against the Russian armies that had broken in. Forced marches back to Aachen, from there by train to East Prussia. Here we saw the destroyed towns and villages, the misery of the inhabitants and soon found ourselves in a bloody battle on the Alle in the Allenburg area. There especially, near the village of Schallen, the site of glorious endurance of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, lie the only graves of our fallen braves who gave their lives on home soil. All the many other comrades who were torn from our ranks by the enemy's weapon action were later buried

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in foreign soil. Doesn't this fact give our German army a great deal of glory? In 4½ years of war against a world of enemies to have saved your homeland from the enemy invasion except for this small part of East Prussia? May the German people never forget this great merit of their army!

After the victory of Allenburg we went by train from Wehlau to Beuthen. Upper Silesia had to be protected against enemy incursions. Upper Silesia, whose name already makes our hearts clench. How have times changed. It was then that our advance on Ivangorod in September 1914 saved the province. Difficult marches

on groundless paths, bad quarters with all the Polish lack of culture and its filth, but this offensive also brought good military successes. I remember the fruitful, heavy reconnaissance activity of our three squadrons of dragoons against the same number of Russian cavalry divisions, I remember Opatov with its easy, beautiful success, I remember the Guards Reserve Brigade, then consisting of the 1st and 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, the Guards Reserve Jaeger Battalion to their encirclements of Ivangorod, the 15th Brigade, then consisting of the Reserve Infantry Regiment 64, 93, the Reserve Guards Rifle Battalion to their mobile heroic Activity in association with our sister division in the corps, the 3rd Guards Infantry Division, at Opaktowice, at Psary, Slowicki-Nowe, Garbatka. Even then, all parts of the division were competing: infantry, our excellent artillery, the 28th Engineers in brilliant mutual support, which in the course of the war weaved an ever-tighter bond around all the arms of the division.

A greatly superior, threatening Russian offensive from Warsaw on October 20 made it necessary to give up the encirclement and to march back to the Upper Silesian border, where protection of this province could be achieved more easily and with fewer forces. The replacement night from 20./21. no one who was there will be forgotten. Rain, pitch black night, groundless roads, constant play of enemy searchlights made the withdrawal extremely difficult. Nevertheless, thanks to the energy and efficiency of the troops, he succeeded without further disturbance. The enemy followed hesitantly. So it was back to home. But before we reached the positions we had in mind, the Guards Reserve Corps struck again with a mighty blow. The day of Lipa, October 25, 1914, brought the division a great success with relatively few losses, the enemy heavy losses. A day of exemplary cooperation between infantry and artillery, in whose success the medical formations also played a not inconsiderable part. Our swift strike also required swift disappearance. No wounded fell into enemy hands. But we took long columns of Russian prisoners with us. We reached Zarki safely, where the first positional battle was to await us. Two Russian corps faced us there. Their attempts at attack failed despite the inadequacy of our trenches. I remind the 64ers of the enemy flag captured in Niegowa, of Kotowice and the heroic death of Major von Bassewitz and his followers, of the standard-bearer Kröger of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, the Guards Reserve Riflemen and Engineers of Przewodziszowice and the Morning of November 17.

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The Russians soon weakened in front of our front, dreading the attack. We were no longer needed there. The Austrians fighting further north needed our help. On November 23, the Guards Reserve Brigade left us with the 1st Guards Reserve Field Artillery Regiment and parts of the dragoons for difficult, glorious days in Austrian formation. When we arrived later, the Austrian commanding general described to me in extremely warm and grateful words the brilliant achievements of these troops and the soldierly example they had set. The days of Szczercow, Kamienna, Bogdanow are incomparable glories for every man in the brigade. The rest of the division soon followed, and we took Petrikau with Austrian formations, only to spend

a difficult Christmas day turning north on the Pilica. Having penetrated furthest into the enemy lines, the division became for a long time the focal point of all fighting, the point of attack for all Russian counter-efforts. Despite their superiority, their intention did not succeed. It failed because of the magnificent steadfastness of our troops. But the names of Nozkowa Wola, Lubocz, Rzeczyce, Vw. Jezierzek, Kawenrzin will probably remain in the memory of everyone who was there. After a series of the most difficult days of fighting, we were held there for a short positional struggle until January 20th, then the division was withdrawn and enjoyed a brief rest in Skierniewice, the first in the war. A brief trench warfare by the 15th Brigade at Guty Bolimov — and on February 8, 1915 the railway took the division to Strasburg in West Prussia. From here their advance to protect West Prussia and the southern part of East Prussia against the threatening Russian invasion began. In daily battles over Sierpc he led to the area of Drobin and Racionz. Hot battle days were among them. I especially remember February 14, 1915, the day of Drobin, which began so badly with the successful Russian attack on our right wing, skillfully carried out with strong forces, and ended with a rushing back in front of the entire front of the division. Countless prisoners, I think 5,000 left in our hands, totally defeated enemies. Unfortunately, time*) does not allow us to go into the interesting course of this successful day here, to sketch the splendid activities of the troops involved in more detail. The day was brilliant proof of the superiority of the German crews and their leaders over the Russians. After these fierce days of fighting, to which I also count the fighting at Pensy Duce and Pensy Male, Kaczorowy, Wrogocin, Zdunowko, etc., there followed a long period of quiet trench warfare from the end of February 1915 to the beginning of July. During this time the divisions were reduced in size. At the beginning of May we said goodbye to the 93rd Reserve Regiment, the Garde-Reserve-Jäger-Bataillon, the Same-Reserve-Schützen-Bataillon, on the market square in Racionz, with moved hearts. Guard Division, the current sister division in the Guard Reserve Corps. The summer of 1915 brought new tasks, the great breakthrough offensive through the Russian positions. The division belonged to that of our highly honored first commanding

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*) The battles are described in detail in Seidel, History of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, Vol. I (Belgium, Poland, Russia). Verlag Max Galle, Berlin 17.

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General, the General of the Artillery von Gallwitz led 12th Army, which had to advance towards the Narew after breaking through the enemy lines. From the area of Mława-Dzierzgowo the division broke through the enemy position Zberoz - Kastenwaldchen - Wengra on July 13, and in the following days stormed the strong rear Russian positions at Seljona, Filipy, Romanowo. The spirit of aggression had not suffered in the fighting at Racionz. Then it kept going forward. The crossing of the Narew at Khmielewo-Pultusk was enforced. The difficult days of Pniewo came, then the march to the XIII. Army corps over Rozan and with him in almost daily battles

over Govorovo, Ostrov, Bransk, Orla, Narew, Kolontai, Pieski, Osowlany Lida, Bogdanov, Satishje, the march to the Berezina. A victory run of almost 600 kilometers in length. Time does not allow to highlight details from those days. The fighting was difficult, the conditions of subsistence poor, food supply made difficult because of the length of the supply lines and the previous destruction of all food by the Russians. We have seen many of our bravest comrades sink down the long road to glory, but in spite of all this, the performance, mood and spirit of all troops remained admirable. And when on October 1 the order reached us on the Beresina, calling us to France, every single one of the division was able to leave Russia with the proud knowledge of having fulfilled his soldier's duty for home and fatherland in the most brilliant way. We continued via Grodno to Cambrai, where we arrived in October 1915*). A new era dawned for the division. The tremendous increase in numerical strength, especially in technical equipment, experienced by our western enemies in the course of the war gave the war there a different character. There was no possibility of brilliant successes, which we saw so often in the East and which had always had a refreshing, stimulating, and strengthening effect on every capable man, and which had quickly helped us through all the difficult days of the war. In the West it was necessary to hold out, to hold on, to cling to the ground that had been won. In addition, the enormous length of the lines we had to hold only seldom made it possible for the troops to be given the rest they deserved. The constant state of alert in the front line forced the reserves to stay close by, so they too had little rest and recovery. Times were often difficult, and yet—how admirably the troops of the division tried to overcome them! I am thinking of the tiring work of constantly building positions, of the ever-increasing effect of enemy artillery, mines, hand grenades, and aerial bombs. Before my eyes are the tough, wild attacks of the black French in the struggle on the Somme, at Barleux and Belloy. South of Peronne, the attacks of the best English divisions, the Australians [sic] and Canadians, carried out again and again with real English iron energy, at the Mouquet Ferme forward Courcelette and Martinpuich, I think of the difficult struggle in the Ancretale that has become a swamp and of the Butte de Wartencourt.

After our arrival in Cambrai we were left with a short period of training in the winter of 1915/16, gradually getting used to the peculiarities of the

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*) The fighting on the western front, see v. Plehwe, history of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, vol. II. Verlag Max Galle, Berlin 17.

western theater of war with temporary positions of the regiments in the Lille area. On May 1st, 1916, the division moved into its own position northeast of Arras near Thelus, Bailleul, Oppy, Arleux with our cemetery of honor, Neuville, etc. From here, the Battle of the Somme at the end of July 1916 called us to the blood-soaked field of Barleux-Belloy; from here, after only a few days of rest, the heavy fighting at

the Mouquet Ferme, at Martinpuich and Courcellette began at the end of August. In this struggle of the Battle of the Somme we lost not an inch of the ground entrusted to us, in spite of the greatest and constant onslaught of our enemies. "The most powerful enemy attacks, which were repeated over and over again, shattered our positions. In the words of our army commander at the time, the late General von Below, we defended the battlefield in an exemplary manner in weeks of heated struggle and brilliantly maintained the reputation that had gone before us."

At the end of September 1916 we found ourselves in a somewhat calmer position in Belgium at Staden-Houthoulster Forest. But soon the Somme called us back. And from the beginning of November 1916 the silted bed of the Ancre to the Butte de Warlencourt, that cone of earth under constant attack, was our field of battle.

"In the summer mud and Ancre
1917 we were born,
we're keeping the Tommy's away again
, etc."

began a cheerful, poetic New Year's wish, which was sent to me by a combat battalion from the front line and which I keep as a souvenir of an excellent troop, also as proof that spirit, confidence and humor were not lost in the troops at that time, despite everything. And therein lay something infinitely great, and it was not a figure of speech when, a few weeks later, when I left the division, I said in my farewell words:

"In the 2½ years of the war I learned something from the deeds and the devoted perseverance of the members of the division German, which means human greatness."

I will always look back on the time when I was allowed to stand at the head of the division with pride and joy as the greatest of my life. But I ask you, too, to preserve and pass on to your children the pride of having stood in the ranks of this division and contributed to what I have just reminded you of. Woe to us if we forget our great past, then we will wither as a people. And a kind heaven save us from that!

On January 26, 1917, I put the leadership of the division in the hands of my battle-hardened successor, Sr. Ex. Generalleutnant Tiede. Under his leadership it has remained the same.

A lbrecht.

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Address

of Sr. Er. of Generalleutnant Tiede,
once. Commanders of the 1st Guards Reserve Division.

If I am to give a summary of the events in the 1st Guards Reserve Division during my command, it can only be done from two points of view:

1. I have only my notes, which are entirely subjective, and my memory Disposal.
2. Is the time so short that I have to limit myself to the main periods and even in them to the most important things.

The point of view from which I give this brief outline is to show what the magnificent troops under me have accomplished and that the true heroes of war are those who, in barrage, in constant combat, with superiority in numbers and material, have endured heat and cold, in dirt and wet, in the worst accommodation, often with inadequate food, without sufficient rest and relaxation and in poor clothing; Troops and individual personalities, who have become particularly well known to me, should be mentioned here.

27. 1. to 20. 3.17. Other Ancre.

On January 27, 1917, on His Majesty's birthday, I took over the leadership of the division with three cheers to our supreme warlord.

The division was at Bapaume, with its foremost lines beyond the Ancre, in a constant defensive struggle against the English, who wanted to further build on the successes of the Battle of the Somme and push us back. The question of replacement was already difficult for us, the position unfavorable, because only lines held in battle, the Supreme Army Command had therefore ordered a shortening of the front and the retreat to the Siegfried Position. This intention had to be kept secret from the enemy, hence constant operations intended to feign an offensive intention. So on March 2nd the 4th Division of the Guards made an attack which, as we know from prisoners, led the English to believe that we stood still and attacked again and again. The day was a special day of honor for our storm troop under Lieutenant Münstermann, who rolled up the Leipzig ditch. — Constant fighting took place around the Butte de Warlencourt and at other points on the front. What the troops endured can be seen from the fact that it was 10-15° cold at night for about 5 weeks; a.m., which was

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fairly strictly observed by both sides; the heaviest enemy projectiles threw dumplings up to one metre in diameter next to their explosives, the English airmen were vastly superior, stoves and heating in the dugouts were inadequate, it was the notorious winter, when the only vegetables were turnips, often no potatoes. Two

battalions were always in position, the third was often alerted and had to be used for work. And yet the mood remained joyful, courageous and confident of victory.

The retreat to the Siegfried Line took place thanks to the excellent preliminary work by Major v. Weiss and Lieutenant Baesler, the skilful command of the artillery by Major Guhl and the rearguard under Major v. Brederlow, smooth and without losses.

March 21 to April 23 rest.

Training at Tournai and east of Lens, gradual shift to Douai, as there has been a sharp incursion by the English at Arras-Lens.

24. 4. to 8. 5. Oppy — Gavrelle.

The 1st Guards Reserve Division was deployed now and later on the western front between Ypres—Cambrai—le Cateau where the fire was burning most severely. At the beginning of April the great Franco-British spring offensive began; at Vimy the English overran our lines, and the weary divisions held at Oppy-Gavrelle only with difficulty. After a very strenuous night march, the division arrives at Esquerchin early on April 24. The 17th Infantry Division standing there is at the end of its strength, but against the ideas of Major v. Weiss and Lieutenant-General Tiede, who wanted a united counter-attack by the division, the foremost regiment, Reserve Infantry Regiment 64, was deployed against Gavrelle via Mauville-Ferme. The regiment is advancing brilliantly, but the enemy is already too entrenched, his artillery superiority is too great, and our artillery preparation is inadequate. Gavrelle is not recovered but a line is held from Oppy including after Windmill Heights hard east of Gavrelle. Despite repeated enemy attacks over the next few days, not a foot's breadth is lost. Oppy, attacked several times, is held by the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, especially Captain Plehwe, supported by the brave engineers, hundreds of prisoners and numerous machine guns are captured in the counterattack, and the group commander gloriously declared after the division had been relieved: I was able to sleep peacefully where the 1st Guards Reserve Division was stationed, while to the right and left of it I was troubled about the position. Holding out and defending ourselves in this position, where we stood until May 8, was then specially recognized by His Majesty at the parade in Tournai on May 22, and the commander of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, Major Möller, received the order Pour le mérite for the successful claim of Oppy. If it had been perseverance in the cold and dirt on the Ancre, here it was standing in the face of superior enemy fire and facing a stronger enemy attacking with confidence of victory, which increased the division's fame, and besides the name of Captain von Plehwe*) earned the battalion commander, Captain Schaumburg, and the

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*) Commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment.

6th Company of Reserve Infantry Regiment 64 to be highlighted for all time. Unfortunately, the names of individual heroes have not been established, but what spirit was in the people was shown by the words of the wounded, who answered with shining eyes when the division commander praised the behavior of the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment: "Mr General we won't let anyone through"; there was something contemptible about "Tommy" for her. We had already defeated two English divisions (D. 2nd and 63rd), on the day of the big battle, May 3rd, the newly deployed 31st fared the same and it was established that the 5 battalions deployed with us were opposed by at least 10. The perseverance of the infantry is all the more important when we ran out of artillery ammunition, since a locomotive of an ammunition train had derailed and it took a long time to bring them in with trucks. But such infantry as in the 1st Guards Reserve Infantry Brigade stands firm even without superior artillery support.

May 9 to May 23

Well-deserved rest and education in and around Tournai, where we were kindly received in our old quarters, since the residents had come to know and appreciate the impeccable attitude and behavior of our people, the "barbarians".

May 22

is a day of honor for the whole division, which was able to stand here in front of the supreme warlord, whether as a guard of honor or in parade, and who expressed his appreciation in the words: "You did that well, you Englishmen will have felt you thoroughly".

to 5/30

Brief shift further south in the Wasnes-au-Bac-Paillencourt area; it is not used.

5/31 to 6/12

If there was a fire south of us before, it is now in the north; Menacing signs are becoming apparent that the English will attack in the Wytschaete arc: So 1st Guards Reserve Division accelerates, infantry by train in the Tourcoing area. The heaviest artillery fire was there on the front position and the rear area, which smashed into the protruding arc from the west, north and south-west. We are to replace the 3rd Bavarian Division, which is to replace the worn-out 40th Infantry Division, as a shock division. The movements for this are still in progress, since - on June 7 at about 4 o'clock in the morning a bang and air pressure shook the area for 15 km; the Englishman has blown up his terrible mines between St. Eloy and Messines, which he had been preparing for almost 2 years, and overrun the position divisions at the first attempt. Then the need was great again; but the 1st Guards Reserve Division was on the rise. It is possible for the infantry to achieve a more or less planned deployment; 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment in the front line on the right wing, 1st Guards Reserve Regiment on the left wing, echeloned a little to the right behind the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment the 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment.

Connection to the centre , Marching direction for the inner wing of the church tower of Messines, the first position is to be taken back, so is the

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order to the 1st Guards Infantry Brigade. Unfortunately, however, the participation of the artillery is missing again. The one previously in position is mostly lost, the changed targets have not been shot at, our own field artillery regiment has not yet approached on its march, there is a lack of ammunition, which it can only gather on the battlefield. Nevertheless, hurry, the infantry steps up, and the attack advances as if on the parade field. Unfortunately, every connection is broken or not yet ready, and traffic is only possible up to the brigade with a light signal. A huge dust whirls up where our infantry is advancing, because the enemy is now directing his artillery fire there, but the cloud of dust shows that the battle is progressing. The rifle line, especially Vogler's company, is already a few hundred meters from Messines; there is hope of relieving and freeing the troops who are still holding their ground up ahead, then a halt occurs. The neighboring division on the right, which was supposed to advance with us, encountered too strong resistance and, having set up too close to the enemy's flanking front, in part had to turn there; our right wing is exposed and a strong counter-attack is made against it from Wytschaete in the direction of Messines. We give way and occupy the tendon position about 1½ km east of Messine, while the right flank is secured by the Hindersin 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment battalion. The enemy also attacks several times with tanks and cavalry, but the unshakable calm of the infantry and the artillery regiment, which arrived by evening, repel every attack; the enemy had bitten on iron, he no longer attacks at night; we can organize, cater, provide supplies. But we are far ahead of the neighboring divisions; there is a lack of contact on the right and left and the losses are very great, we are forced to use our reserves, and yet: we hold the position we have won despite the daily attacks and although the third position could be occupied in the event of a stronger attack; since general avoidance behind the canal was planned, we stay where we are. And when the Staigerhof was lost in another enemy attack on the evening of June 11, the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment under its good commander v. Schlechtendal does it for his honor to take back this homestead as well. It is taken in a nocturnal attack, the opponent is thrown back into his original position. The homestead remains between the fronts in "no man's land" because it is tactically worthless and constantly under heavy enemy fire. When the division was pulled out of the position on June 12 after a heavy sacrifice, it had the proud feeling: the Englishman's breakthrough had been thwarted, the position was safely in German hands, time had been won to take the necessary further defensive measures. the division has done its duty and once again won the confidence of the high command as one of the best. On June 19, the commander of the army group, Crown Prince of Bavaria, expressed his thanks and appreciation, especially to the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment, which had borne the brunt of the battle with brilliant success. His brave commander, Colonel v. Schlechtendal received the order Pour le mérite for this and five officers of the division received

the Hohenzollern house order; it also deserves to be noted that a medical vice sergeant from the Brederlow Battalion, as all leaders of the

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company had fallen, tore his Geneva armband from his arm and led it with brilliant bravery and skill with the cry: "The company listens to my command".

13. 6. to 17. 8. position at Qui é n t.

After a few days of rest in the area just north of Cambrai, the division was assigned to Gruppe Quiént as a position division. Here, too, the enemy had attacked violently, particularly at Bullecourt-Riencourt, but now got stuck and it was a question of expanding and holding this position. It could be described as "quiet" because it was only very close to the enemy at the locations mentioned, but it had a front length of about 8 km and required, since e.g. T. held in battle, very busy. Each regiment had a definite sector to develop and maintain; 1 battalion each was withdrawn for rest and training; the engineers had specific jobs or were occasionally assigned to the regiments. Numerous patrol operations took place to learn every change in the enemy. The enemy artillery fire was moderate, as were the casualties, the state of health was good; in August the troops could again be described as ready for use on any front in attack and defense.

18. 8. 17 to 1. 1. 18. position at L e n s.

In the meantime the Englishman has attacked strongly at Lens in order to get control of this place and the important coalfields there. Since "absolutely capable troops" are needed there, the 1st Guards Reserve Division is ordered to relieve the 11th Reserve Infantry Division, which has long held this important area. The combat troops will lie in an enormous heap of rubble, poor visibility, poor accommodation, even the cellars cannot withstand the heavy shelling, there is constant gas fire on the combat battalions; the foremost line goes through Lens; here will be the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment, now under Lieutenant Colonel v. Schmidt, on the right, where there was a constant threat of being surrounded by the notorious Height 70, the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment, on the left at the nasty "Shaft 4 with the coal heap" and behind a flood area Reserve Infantry Regiment 64. The Englishman is constantly attacking , especially at Shaft 4, but suffered such a defeat here on August 23 against Battalion Schaumburg that he refrained from further attacks; around 100 prisoners remain in our hands, 2 companies of Canadians have been wiped out, with this start the division immediately put itself in a good light with the higher command and proved its reputation. Great care must be given to the gas protection service, and yet in a fire attack with gas mines over 100 men are disabled because they did not wear the gas masks in increased readiness. Due to the daily bombardment with explosive and gas projectiles, attacks by the British divisional posts stationed here, patrol operations, etc., our losses were very considerable and the effort resulting from the large amount of work on obstacles, shelters, defense facilities, barrages, and the establishment of connections of all

kinds was very great strong and therefore the total consumption of forces large; about 50 men a day. It

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the question of whether Lens should be evacuated is discussed. This is only to be done in extreme emergencies, but we are preparing a shooting position that runs east of Lens. On September 13, the enemy launched another very strong gas attack, which cost us many casualties. Altogether the division had already lost 2,200 men in one month, and the replacements coming from home varied greatly in training, attitude, and morale; Further training, education about the incitement and "rubbing" taking place at home, increasing trust and discipline were therefore necessary, but also entertainment and pleasant, distracting occupation, good care and food. Everything was taken into account as far as possible within the units and on the part of the division, so that the mood, attitude and behavior of all units were very good. Repeated reports and signs of major attacks kept the division in constant suspense, and particularly the statement made by a prisoner in mid-November that the Canadians intended to give Marshal Haigh Lens as a Christmas present, always demanded great attention, vigilance and action. All attempts by the opponent to win in and around Lens Boden fail. But when he surprisingly attacks further south near Cambrai, he penetrates to the place; the reserves that were called in, including a battalion under Major v. Brederlow is located, halt the attack; the battalion did very well and for the first time repulsed a tank attack with certainty and calm. The small attacks of the English continue; We also do smaller projects, mainly we shoot up fine ditches for him, gas nests and gathering places, clear them up with planes, build obstacles, shelters, approach and communication routes, canal bridges, tank traps. — Christmas and New Year are coming, but the Englishman didn't get Lens; Despite heavy losses - over 3000 men - the division has held out in a very difficult position for more than 4 months, has retained its old reputation and is now being withdrawn for some time to receive training for the great battle in France, which is to begin at the beginning of spring.

March 21 to 20, preparation for the great offensive in France.

This training period is very strenuous; daily exercises, first in the smallest formations, up to and including division; It is mainly about the advance of the infantry with machine gun squads, allocation and training of the accompanying batteries, destruction of the enemy obstacles and their overcoming, crossing the funnel area with all weapons, especially heavy guns, bridging of shell holes and trenches, recognition and removal of machine gun nests by shock troops with the help of mine launchers, who shoot with flat-track guns, practicing the so-called fire roller, which should pave the way for the infantry to attack. The higher command assigned the division the task of pushing two attacking divisions in a wedge shape from a narrow front and then continuing the attack at the same height as them. A bigger exercise

behind the front showed this difficulty and this was later only overcome if the division created "elbow room" in time and advanced early; Admittedly, as a result, it was used earlier than intended and after it had already suffered serious losses. Unfortunately, during this training period, the extraordinarily capable and universally popular 1st General Staff Officer of the Division, Major von. White, transferred, but received the division in the captain v. Brauchitsch a full-fledged replacement, who led the last training and later the operations in attack in an exemplary manner. Training and rest were interrupted once more when the division was deployed to the old front near Lens on January 20 due to a lack of other troops. Conditions here were the same as before; the enemy made more noticeable attempts to get clarity about our intentions, hence: attempts to take prisoners and induce troops to defect in order to extort from these statements, wiretapping of long-distance calls, espionage at the front, in the rear and at home, large amounts of air activity to identify people and transports, photographs to determine road, bridge, railway construction, camps, depots and battery positions. Of course, we needed every imaginable antidote: no written records were allowed to be taken to the front lines, no long-distance calls there, no double lines; Concealment of all attack work and color matching with nature (the word camouflage originated then), all troop movements in the dark, by day to deceive in the wrong direction, blocking mail, secret writing, etc. The troop was gradually replenished with replacements of men, horses, equipment, vehicles, etc. provided. About March 10th the gradual shift of the division to the area of Oisy le Verger—Marquion, which we knew from the earlier position at Quéant, began; on the evening of March 20 they were fully trained and equipped, animated by the joyous spirit of attack and firm confidence in success at Baralle-Bussy and to the west, ready to attack and moved in the order 1st Guards Reserve Regiment, Reserve Infantry Regiment 64 , 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment with their accompanying batteries, the rest of the artillery in position between Quéant and Bussy.

21. 3. to 9. 4. 18. Big offensive in France.

At 503 a.m. preparatory artillery fire began on the whole mighty offensive front between Arras and Laon; the Englishman answers after a short time and gasses at the same time; it's a roar from hell that lasts until 940 am. Then the barrage of fire begins, and the infantry in the front line, in our case 17th and 195th Infantry Divisions, begin to charge. In order to have room for development later, the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment soon followed, and already here on the English front line its brave commander, Lieutenant Colonel v. Schmidt and becomes the battalion commander Hauptmann v. Stockhausen mortally wounded. Since the 195th Infantry Division was not making any headway, the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment intervened at Lagnicourt, and to its right developed the 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment alongside the 17th Infantry Division. But the Englishman is tough and in

his machine gun fire halted the attack. A counterattack by the English with tanks is repelled, 7 of them remain under our fire. It will be continued on March 22nd, after artillery preparation has been effective again from 630 am, and it will reach the Bapaume bar, which we ourselves had laid a year ago. On March 23rd he was fired on by our advanced batteries, but the storming was not successful until the 24th and immediately continued on Bapaume, which Battalion Schleinitz Reserve Infantry Regiment 64 penetrated first. Although the losses and the fatigue of the troops are very high, the mood is bright following the victory and especially the capture of Bapaume, which we evacuated a year ago, especially since there was also a lot of useful equipment (raincoats, rubber boots) and Luxury items (tobacco, sardines, cognac, biscuits) were captured. The division follows Biefvillers — Achiet le Grand as the 2nd line and is able to arrange itself and rest; but it was deployed again on the 27th in order to advance by way of Bucquoy—Puisieux. We're still gaining ground halfway to Hebuterne, but since the general offensive comes to a standstill here, we too are left behind. Meanwhile, rain mixed with snow has set in, the ground is soft, churned up by shells, there are no shelters, fire is not burning, straw is not available, warm food is not available, the enemy has drawn up his reserves and increased his artillery; but the division endures; She is the one who endured the longest in this attack and in the witches' cauldron of fire and dirt with almost 4000 casualties, namely from March 21st to April 9th. Your booty is 180 machine guns, 7 mortars, 22 artillery pieces, 10 tanks, 4 airplanes; 35 officers, 2136 prisoners. — The division had maintained its old reputation; the troops had supported one another brilliantly, they trusted one another, especially infantry and artillery, and it was only through this unanimous cooperation that success was due. However, two formations in particular must be considered here under their excellent leaders: the pioneers under the tactically and technically excellently educated and brave Major Scherlau, and the medical formations under the equally brave, prudent and organizationally gifted Oberstabsarzt Bassenge. The former did what could be done as combat troops and in relation to work for accommodation by building shelters and barracks, the latter for care, rations, treatment and deportation of the wounded; Each individual could proudly boast of having contributed to the overall success. As a special award, General Tiede received for the achievements of the division and the captains v. Plehwe and Schaumburg the Order Pour le mérite.

10. 4. to 21. 4. 18. Short rest, marches, readying s.

The time is filled with arranging the associations, repairing the equipment and clothing, setting up replacements that are of little use, e.g. T. from the east, e.g. T. "sifted out"; only the old men healed from wounds and young recruits are proud and happy to go to the front; rest little. The division will move in several marches to the area southwest of Lille at Neuve Chapelle

after staying there for a few days, with very poor accommodation in bivouacs and the totally polluted Portuguese dugouts, she was moved to the La Bassée area, where she again had to endure trench warfare on a difficult front.

April 22 to May 21, 1918 Difficult position at L a B ass é e .

This front, too, was largely the result of battle; They were soon to advance again, take Givenchy and Festubert, and snatch the important coal region of Béthune, the only one the French still had in the north, or at least render it worthless by constant bombardment. Such an attempt had failed on April 18, and the 1st Guards Reserve Division was supposed to renew it. For this purpose, the initial position had to be created, for which only the approximately 600 m long "funnel position" was usable. To the north of it, however, was the lowland, where water was found at $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 m and all parapets had to be "put on". There were no connecting or approach routes, obstacles, lines, command posts, etc. were inadequate, in short, combat troops, reserves, rest battalion had to work constantly in addition to trench and patrol duty with the addition of engineers, who also had to carry out technical construction work. It was very important that on April 24 Lieutenant Bierwisch, the engineering officer subordinate to the division, found and blew up the entrance to the English tunnel after the opening of the funnel. A strong English attack on April 26, z. T. got into the position, was brilliantly repelled until the evening, whereby private Peikenbach, who stood on the parapet and shot down the enemy with his machine gun, excelled in particular. The idea of attacking Givenchy-Festubert is abandoned because of the general situation; Here, too, we become paralyzed in positional warfare, which costs us many casualties, since the enemy has very strong artillery and shells positions, quarters and camp from afar and attacks frequently, albeit unsuccessfully. Here, too, the division faithfully endured in fire and dirt with tireless work.

May 22 to July 4, 1918

At last a lengthy period of rest and education, which was much needed, in the Thumeries district. The result is a decidedly good one, the performance of the troupe is visibly improving, as is the inner content and discipline. The training and performance is only disturbed by the very strong flu, which at times affected more than 1000 men in the division at the same time. However, since it was even stronger than "maladie de la Picardie" on the enemy, its fighting strength was also significantly weakened there. However, because other divisions in our army group had been severely weakened by that illness, the 1st Guards Reserve Division was deployed again on July 5 in the sector near La Bassée.

5. 7. to 16. 7. 18. Quiet position west of L a B ass é e.

Little has changed in position; the enemy infantry is calm, artillery and planes are very active and firing, resp. also drop bombs on the resting quarters. We do too

nothing special, but to save energy, we wait and see. As a result of the overheating at home, as well as the fact that many "sifted out" and battle-weary people come to the front, and the enemy also develops strong propaganda through leaflets, military and civil offenses increase, although the general public is brave, reliable and obedient.

17. 7. to 27. 8. 18. Training at Phalempin, position
at Neuve Chapelle - Richebourg.

Since the division is to be used in the front line in a new advance south of the Kemmel, where the Nieppewald zone has to be taken in battle, it is withdrawn to the Phalempin area for further training and internal consolidation, and here it mainly practices forest combat and interaction between the forces Infantry with the M.-G.-Troop and mortars and escort batteries. The offensive was abandoned, however, and the division became a construction and intervention division in the Neuve Chapelle-Richebourg area, where several positions were gradually laid out and occupied. There are only sentries and field guards at the front, in front of which there is an apron; the posts can evade; but the main line of resistance must be held, the main thing is that we damage the enemy as much as possible while suffering as few own losses as possible. The gradual withdrawal to the various lines (green and brown, so-called "double Siegfried") is proceeding according to plan, the enemy feels cautious with patrols after; only very strong enemy bomb squadrons cause casualties. The position itself can be described as calm; the troops are back in full force.

28. 8. to 8. 11. 18 The last defensive fights at Douai -
Cambrai - Le Cateau - Maubeuge.

This fighting power should already be tested in the next few days; But it was not just a few days when the highest physical and mental strength and nerves had to be demanded; this day marks the beginning of a time of exertion, deprivation through battles, marches and weather, such as had not been experienced before in the campaign. and which is particularly stressful because the troops are constantly under the impression that the superiority of the enemy in terms of men and material is becoming more and more overwhelming, the allies are failing and the home front is gradually collapsing. And yet: It is almost inhuman what the division has achieved during this time; It has never surrendered even a piece of ditch, crater area or section to the enemy without a fight, who attacked or pursued only in the consciousness of his superiority and even then only timidly. Every retreat was according to plan. If the early years of the war were a time of splendor and glory for the division, now begins a period of heroism which ends, one might say, in tragedy. The first danger seemed to be in the old fighting area west of Douai; the division is transported there by night marches, for every movement by day is detected and disrupted by enemy planes. The division was ready on August 29 as an intervention division near Esquerchin and Quiéry la Motte. But the situation on the Cambrai-Arras highway is more dangerous, so that's where the division will go on the night of

August 31 drawn to September 1. At 6 o'clock in the morning of September 2nd, enemy barrages began on the worn-out divisions, which were struggling to hold their ground southwest of Arleux. But behind them the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment marched south-east of Dury, and at Villers lez Cagnicourt the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment with escort batteries; the Reserve Infantry Regiment 64 is still in reserve at Saudemont, the rest of the artillery east of the Kranichhöhe. And when the worn-out parts of the leading German divisions were broken through, the two Guards Reserve regiments formed an insurmountable wall. It is true that the 1st Battalion of the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment was wiped out by being surrounded from the north, and its brave leader, Captain Bassin, was killed, but the regiment's commander, Major von Brederlow, with the 5th Company, threw the enemy back, effectively supported by the independent Intervention of the I. and III. Battalions of the 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment, and our excellent artillery, especially the 3rd and 8th Batteries, which still served even abandoned guns. Here the battle has come to a halt. The Grenadiers of the Guard know no fear of superiority and tanks, and when Captain Schaumburg throws two more companies of his battalion into the fray to the right, contact is established with the neighboring division and any advance of the enemy is thwarted. But it had been just as critical on the left wing: there the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment had first occupied the western and southern edges of the village of Villers lez Cagnicourt, but was surrounded by superior numbers and danger from the north, where there was a gap are taken back to the line Brioche Ferme — eastern edge of the village. The fighting troops are without any connection to the rear and to the sides, but the brave, cold-blooded Captain Seidel, although he has only returned from home a few hours ago, knows what is at stake: It will be endured; and so he brilliantly repels every attack, especially one late in the evening. The division's last reserve, 2nd Company of Reserve Infantry Regiment 64, finally fell at 6 p.m. when a new enemy attack with tanks launched on the Arras road, into the gap between the 1st and 2nd Guards Reserve Regiments deployed and the last enemy attack of the day bounced off the division's living wall; it holds the almost 5 km long position from 1 km north of Dury - east edge of this place - Damien's mill - Brioche Ferme east edge of Villers to the Buissy bar with its weak forces with a loss of 1600 officers and men. But the goal has been achieved, the enemy's breakthrough has been thwarted, reserves are on the march, and the division can go behind the canal as planned without loss. It was a major battle and a day of honor for the division, which brought Major von Brederlow and Captain Seidel the Pour le Mérite. The division goes to rest in the Morenchies-Bantigny-Eswars area; but already on September 5th the message was received: "General situation serious, reserves not available", and so already on September 6 at 1 a.m. the 64th Regiment was alerted and ready at Sailly-Fontaine west of Cambrai; on September 7 the division was in the front line on the canal west of the notorious Bournon Forest, where the heaviest attacks had to be repelled every

day. There are 650 men, some very young recruits, some who have recovered, some who have been screened out and

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frontier hired; but their fighting value is only doubtful: the old trunk must form a firm footing. And he does it in daily struggles; the Tommy wants Cambrai and attacks daily after barrage, smoke and gas with strong forces supported by tanks. Moeuvres is his first target; it gets lost and is taken again, and especially on September 12 there is a strong attack, which is mostly repelled by our excellent artillery, where, among other things, the Vice Sergeant [sic] Halbreiter hurls 200 shots at the attacking enemy from 150 m with his cannon. On September 19, Moeuvres is lost again, but is recaptured on September 21 with the support of Engineers and Flamethrowers. When the division was replaced by the 7th Cavalry Rifle Division on September 22, it can boast of having held the position assigned to it, despite the heaviest fighting with a loss of 2,500 officers and men. The troops go into the area between Cambrai and Paillencourt as an intervention division and hope for calm.

Then, suddenly early on September 27, there was heavy barrage all along the front, fogging, gassing and an attack on the 7th Cavalry Rifle Division from the flanks. She doesn't know this state and is rolled up. The opponent takes possession of the Bourlon forest and the adjoining heights. Again the division has to help. Reserve Infantry Regiment 64 to Fontaine, 1st Guards Reserve Regiment to the right, 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment held back at St. Olle. Heaviest enemy attacks occur throughout the day, hitting especially the 1st Guards Reserve Regiment, which is suffering heavy casualties; Lettow's battalion is almost wiped out, he himself is captured but does not go back. During the night the Hagen position was occupied by order, against which six attacks were made in the course of September 28, all of which were repelled. Renewed attacks on September 29 after preparation by barrage are again repulsed; the enemy's losses are enormous, but our losses and exhaustion are also enormous; the battalion of Prince Isenburg has been smashed and parts of the infantry are crumbling, especially since the - false - news has spread that the division has been relieved. But under the two pillars of Schaumburg - 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment - and Seidel - 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment - the front is held just west of Cambrai. When attacked again on September 30, the troops crossed the Channel, blew up the bridges and defended Cambrai. On October 1 again the heaviest attacks on Cambrai, they are repelled, but the exhaustion is so great that the men fall asleep in the position; the provisions are bad, there is a lack of ammunition, especially for the long-range guns; the associations are mixed up, the news from home and from weak allies is getting worse and worse. But the division cannot rest, it is only pulled out of the cauldron immediately at Cambrai and goes a little further north on October 2nd and stands on the canal between Ivuy and Morenchies.

Here she is constantly under artillery fire and often under gassing until October 8; to the south the enemy has advanced again and Cambrai has been

surrounded from the south. As the army group retreated to the second Siegfried line, the 1st Guards Reserve Division also retreated to the area of Avesnes le Sec-Haspres and the heavily defended town of Cambrai was left to the English.

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As the division becomes army group reserve, it goes a little further west into the Haspres-Moncheux area and thus partly comes into the stage area, where unfortunately it also becomes aware of the appearances of the formations there, so that it can be described as lucky if the troops were alarmed again around noon on October 10th and reached the area east of Solesmes near Poix du Nord, where the enemy was constantly attacking, especially near Neuville. On October 12 and 13 the division throws it back again, so that the railway Solesmes-le Cateau is the main line of defence. This line is held until October 20th, the town of Neuville in particular by the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment; an overpowered attack enveloping the place from the north and north-east inflicted immense casualties on the regiment, which would not give way, and only debris accumulated north of Forest. Again the division was at the end of its capacity when it was withdrawn to the southeast Bavai area on October 21. But even here she has no physical and mental rest. The troop formations are mixed up, there is no division of space, food is inadequate, the flu is spreading; in addition, the feeling that "the fight is lost and pointless", bad news from old fronts seeps through, the conditions at home are bleak, the government vacillates back and forth without support. The infantry has already melted down so much that a regiment is formed under the man who has nerves of steel, Schaumburg, and is driven forward in cars to Robersart, where it is deployed with the artillery detachment of the indestructible Captain von Heyden. In the back the streets are blocked and totally driven up. It is only with difficulty that the divisional commander and his staff manage to keep the columns of troops and trains moving away along the great Roman road. On the evening of October 24 the order was received that the division should be quietly withdrawn north of Maubeuge; but the next day a counter-order was given and the Schaumburg regiment was immediately withdrawn from its position in the Marvilles region, 5 km east of Landrecies, with our artillery behind it. It's a difficult area because of the buildings, hedges and wooded areas that make it difficult to see through, so there's a lot of work to establish connections, obstacles, observation points and a firing range. Until November 3 it was relatively calm, but on that day and especially on November 4 the enemy attacked with very strong forces and forced us into the Hermann III. position at Marvilles. The next day the position on either side of Pont sur Sambre was occupied by the three regiments, each formed into a battalion. The enemy follows only very slowly and cautiously, so that the lines ordered are occupied by us without difficulty. Rainy weather and fog prevent enemy aircraft reconnaissance and bombing, which could have been disastrous given the frequent blockage of the roads. All bridges were blown up, we crossed the Belgian border unhurriedly on November 8 and 9.

It goes without saying that in this period of constant marching, relocations and fighting, secure and rapid communication within the division, with neighboring

troops and with the higher command was of the greatest importance. This task was carried out by the intelligence troop under their prudent and tireless leader, Captain Fischer.

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brilliantly resolved; the success of all operations is largely due to her.

In the meantime the revolution, starting in Kiel, has broken out, the home front is collapsing, the stab in the back takes place. The commanded soldiers' councils are also formed here, but as trust councils, and it turned out that the troops still deserve trust; she keeps discipline and order, and her demeanor on the street stands out in exemplary fashion from other formations. Of course, the conditions at the front and at home also affect the troops, and ultimately in quite different ways; some people are sad, others angry, others indifferent, some of course also agree with the change from which they expect improvement of their situation and especially peace. Since there is no longer any censorship, the newspapers carry all kinds of news and views. On November 11, the division received an intercepted radio message that the armistice would begin at 12 noon, but under conditions that would leave us defenseless and compel us to accept any peace. He was the beginning of the end. On November 12th the order came for the further march back, which again entailed enormous efforts for the division, demanded a great deal of renunciation and often put morale and discipline to a severe test. But for the glory of all parts that belong to the division according to plan, it must be frankly acknowledged that the old spirit could not be wiped away with the stroke of a pen; mutual trust, respect, obedience and discipline remained.

9 November to 23 December 18

The return march through Belgium and Germany. Dismissal of the crews.

If the division had stood in the front line in enemy territory to the end and repulsed his attacks with brilliant success, it should and wanted to be the last on our route to leave enemy soil; the Battalion of Schaumburg always formed the rear guard. The Entente had demanded that the Rhine be crossed by noon on December 5th, failing which the troops still in the area in question should be interned. If one considers that on many roads, apart from stage formations, worker battalions, columns and trains, often more than half a dozen divisions had to march, it is clear that with only a little disorder and delay just the last division of a large one was exposed to danger. But thanks to the exemplary orders of the general staff officers of the division, the captains v. Rabenau and v. Schleinitz, all commanders and last but not least the discipline, marching order and marching performance of the division, the time could be paused, although the Entente shortened the time of the Rhine crossing by 1½ days without any special reason, but only out of common malice. Naturally, proper and sufficient rations caused particular difficulties, but this was ensured by the excellent directorship, and only the clothing for the winter,

especially footwear and underwear for the teams and studs for the horses could not be procured, since the economy of the Soldiers' councils, the looting by flag

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fugitives, tens of thousands of whom were in the retreat area, dishonest elements of the population, who appeared everywhere under the name of Spartacists, any orderly supply was impossible. Vast amounts of equipment, clothing, food and other war material had to be left behind in France and Belgium because the railways could not cope with operations, also largely as a result of the effects of the revolution, strikes, disobedience and arbitrary actions by the railway staff. Both individuals were very concerned about the situation of their relatives, since no mail arrived, also as a result of the revolution; many troops only pushed home to protect their wives and children from the assaults and looting of the revolutionaries, especially the Spartacists. The question, repeated every day, was: "When are we coming home?" without even the High Command, much less the Division, being able to give an adequate answer. Strict care was taken to ensure that all information reached the troops truthfully, so that they would not lose confidence in the leaders.

The march goes from November 9th via Fontaine - Lévègue - Fleurus (past the battlefield of Ligny 1815) just north of Namur near Andenne over the Meuse, where the division had to endure heavy street fighting on the march, Huy-Comblain (south of Liège) via Spaa on Malmedy. In Spaa, where the International Peace Commission was meeting, the troops, decked out in German and national colors, wagons and guns adorned with fir branches, marched through to music and crossed the home border at the Rotwasser customs house, in a different way than we had thought. But there is one thing we could and will always be proud of: We are not defeated in battles! And with our heads held high we can always repeat: We kept the enemy off home soil! At home, many a reception and admission had thought better; but you have to consider that the homeland had been in want for three years, and that the marches and billeting had stopped for weeks on the march roads west of the Rhine, and we were the last division to march through. But it should be said that the lower classes gave us what they had and made us feel that they saw and respected us as brave, undefeated defenders of the fatherland. The cold in the Eifel was sometimes quite severe, especially since the rooms were housed in barns and sheds and it was not possible to heat the rooms and dry things. Sometimes it was necessary to march twice in one day, naturally also in the dark, in order to cross the Rhine in time. Luckily the weather was good again on the plain, and on December 1 the division crossed the Rhine near Mondorf, just below Bonn, in glorious sunshine. The population had appeared in large numbers and greeted us with flowers and refreshments, although the mood of the troops was happy because we had escaped the enemy's baseness in time and each individual was getting closer to home and his family, although the large mass was reliable and in good health attitude, but individuals crumbled away, for whom the "dear I" was more important than the general public, and left home on their own initiative in order to find a position and earnings. Some will have regretted this later, because

he was not properly discharged to assert the justified claims. For the rest, officers and men were dismissed when the troops returned to their home areas, although a final decision on the use of the division was not received until December 8th, after which rail transport began on December 12—later postponed to the 13th to Berlin, as the troops were to serve as protection for the capital. At times, the relationship between superiors and the councils of trust was difficult because the regulations were unclear and some of them wanted to assume more powers than they were granted and permissible; but there has never been any insubordination.

On December 13, the deportation began from Korbach to Berlin-Grunewald via Nordhausen-Gusten-Belzig. On December 16, the troops are well accommodated in Grunewald and the surrounding area and can finally recover; where possible, teams are dismissed or put on leave to be with yours at Christmas. The use of the division was initially uncertain; either it should take over the protection of Berlin against the left radicals, Spartacists, communists, looters, etc., or be used in the border protection East. On December 22, the ceremonial entry into Berlin took place through the Tiergarten, the Brandenburg Gate and Unter den Linden to the square at the opera house. New items of clothing and equipment were issued, the crews, horses, and vehicles were adorned with flowers, flags, and ribbons in the national colors; People's Commissioner Scheidemann and the governor of Berlin gave welcoming speeches on the Pariser Platz, but a true festive mood could not set in, because we had thought of returning to the capital as victors and were defeated not by external enemies but by our own misled comrades. And unfortunately, on December 23, the division had to use arms against them and, in order to maintain law and order, took away the Reich Chancellery, the Commander's Office and the Royal Stables, where the main resistance was put up, by force of arms. By insidious deceit, part of the troops and their officers were disarmed by their own country children, a disgrace that the troops had not suffered from the enemy from outside during the entire campaign.

Immediately after moving in, all the older crews who did not stay voluntarily were dismissed; but since the division was assigned to protect the border in the east, regrouping and equipment for the winter had to begin immediately. This, however, was very difficult, since there was boundless disorder everywhere, caused especially by the soldiers' councils; even the Ministry of War often could not help out and could not get its way. In order to withdraw the troops from the influence of the capital and to be able to train them, they were transferred to the Bernau area in mid-January; the staffs and troops had set up recruiting offices and soon a large number of officers, enlisted men and closed formations, e.g. B. Detachment Petersdorff, Schauroth, Yorck and Brandis. Since the danger of the Bolsheviks crossing the East Prussian border, against which the Iron Division fought back only with difficulty, became ever greater, the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment under Captain v. Plehve and the staff of the 1st Guards Reserve Infantry Brigade

been transported to the Lyck area. All other formations were not ready for use until around February 10, although even then the medical personnel, columns and trains were still incomplete. However, since the pressure exerted by the Bolsheviks east of Libau increased more and more, the first transports were directed to Stettin on February 11 in order to go from here by ship to Libau. The embarkation and the journey went smoothly, only the ship, the Cassel, which had most of the divisional staff and the guard riflemen on board, was stopped close to Swinemünde by a French destroyer, examined and then "ready for action". accompanied to about the amount of Danzig, where he gave the Cassel free rein.

In Libau, the commanding general, Graf von der Goltz, inspected a parade of the Guard Riflemen, who made an excellent impression with their demeanor and indicated that the unreliable elements of every kind, especially the local troops there, which were contaminated with Bolsheviks, would not find happiness in them with their views and their demeanor. Accommodation was in the former Russian princely camp just north of the city.

20. 2. to 27. 5. 19. March up, advance to the Aa and position dasel st.

The transports arrived in Libau on February 20, so that the deployment in the Schkudy-Prekulin area could begin. The Reserve Infantry Regiment 64, which did not yet have enough replacements, equipment and training, still stayed with Bernau. After the first-mentioned places, the 2nd Guards Reserve Regiment had already been drawn up. The advance was then to continue towards the Windau, where the Iron Division was stationed, which, when we arrived, was able to push north and occupy a smaller combat zone than before. Our right wing was the endangered one, since there was not yet a connection to the 52nd Reserve Corps stationed there, but later the latter advanced simultaneously, so that there was no danger from here either. In the meantime the town of Windau had been lost; to recapture it, the Guardsmen by ship and a squadron of Guards-Uhlans were sent thither; the place is recaptured, so that these parts could be reunited with the division in the further march.

On March 3 the advance to the east begins. The possibility of this at this time of the year depends only on the weather; if the "March thaw" sets in early, then the operations stop by themselves, since the roads here do not lead from west to east according to our concepts, or were in such a condition that heavy vehicles had to be stranded during the thaw; this happened occasionally, when part of a heavy battery got stuck in the dirt between Okenjany and Shagory for several days. In general, however, we had a slight frost and reached the intended position on the Aa before the thaw set in. Replenishment made great difficulties; the sea line from Szczecin, resp. Gdansk to Libau was blocked several times by the Entente, the two railways Memel - Krottingen - Prekulin - Mitau and Tilsit - Langzangen - Schaulen - Mitau were overloaded (too few staff, few and bad locomotives, at first still

east of Murawicwo there were no Russian gauges and stage formations, but the population was very insecure, and behind the fighting front there were plundering ex-soldiers and Bolsheviks lurking about. Towards the end of March cattle gradually appeared out of the woods, and it was particularly favorable that off the main marching roads, especially in Lithuania, eggs and fat could be procured in abundance by recovery squads from April onwards. Tobacco was sorely missed, which used to be delivered but was now impossible to obtain or only available at enormous prices. The accommodation was mostly very poor; but since good stoves and fuel were available, the troops, at least in their quarters, did not suffer from the cold; There were, of course, plenty of vermin and there were no delousing facilities. Fortunately, health was good; there were no epidemic diseases, and since the bloody casualties in the battles were only small, the medical personnel and the medical institutions were able to cope with their task. But the pecuniary and economic satisfaction of the troops caused great difficulties. Apart from free accommodation, clothing, meals and the wages set in the Reich, the troops fighting here in the north-east, in the Baltic States, were guaranteed a "Baltenzulage" of 5 marks per day by the Latvian government. Soon, however, this government ceased to pay this amount because it was itself in financial difficulty, and in order to honor its contract and satisfy the troops, the German government paid this allowance. Later, however, this payment was made dependent on the presence of the troops across the border in the Baltic States. If the division was in the German Reich in whole or in part, the amount was not paid, which, given the views and conditions prevailing since the revolution, led to many people terminating the contract, which they were entitled to do. The result was that the effective strengths in critical times - when fighting or great efforts were imminent, accommodation and food were bad or other sources of income opened up, unfortunately also when bootying was tolerated anywhere - alarmingly decreased and the leaders did not have enough troops.

The operations were generally directed in such a way that 3 columns made up of all arms under Major Graf Yorck, Captain von. Plehwe and Major v. Brederlow were formed so that everyone could fence independently. There were goals to be achieved by a certain day; Marching routes could only be determined within certain marching bands; Quarters were also left to the column leaders and only had to be reported. If a column found stronger resistance, the neighboring columns had to help from the flank and, if possible, from the rear. The Bolsheviks were generally cowardly and ill-managed; on serious attack, especially when receiving artillery fire, they immediately retreated; a stronger resistance actually only took place at Murawicwo, which was carried out by Battalion v. Stülpnagel was taken, near Lajzew, which the guardsmen under Captain v. Schauroth took, and at Banske, that of the former stormer of Fort Douaumont near Verdun, Hauptmann

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v. Brandis of the Brederlow column, captured by encirclement, taking about 400 prisoners. During the advance, Lieutenant Stickling's armored train had often done

essential work, e.g. For example, at Kurshany, an enemy train of 25 wagons, containing a battalion's ammunition, equipment, food and clothing, was turned back. The activity of the Sachsenberg air squadron was also of great importance, since the distances were very great, the cavalry was weak and the road conditions were often very unfavorable for reconnaissance. When we arrived at the Aa on March 22, our tactical goal was achieved; and since Mitau had been taken by the Iron Division in the meantime and the spring meltdown was also beginning, the division remained standing on this stretch of the river. In the area to be covered from Banske to Mitau, about 50 km long, three groups were formed according to the advance, which were made independent by the allocation of artillery, including heavier ones, so that they could fend off lighter attacks and reconnoiter the Aa. The field railway was put back into operation to connect the divisional magazine near Meiten to Banske and was able to bring food, ammunition, etc., as well as troop transports to the front. The accommodation in the farmsteads (servants) was very bad; the troops lay here mostly in groups or half-platoons with a few machine guns as non-commissioned officer posts or field guards and fed themselves with the food they received, which hardly offered any change; so for almost a month the troops received only pearl barley as vegetables; only later could additional fat and eggs be procured by collection commands.

Even if there were no major battles, there were almost daily patrols on the right bank of the Aa, and sometimes attempts by the enemy to cross the river had to be fended off; our losses during March are about 150 men; also, unreliable and bad elements often had to be removed, from the end of March many men went on their due leave, so that the troop strength in April was quite small.

Finally, on March 26, 2 companies arrived, which could be used for advance purposes, that is, mainly taking over local security behind our front and using the rear area for food.

A strong attraction for reports to the division was the prospect of acquiring settlement land in Courland with the granting of Latvian citizenship, which the large landowners (Balten barons) made available at a fixed price after an agreement with the command authorities. The property was to be around 80-90 acres, so that it could be farmed by a family with the necessary draft animals without outside help. Since building houses was temporarily impossible, adjacency settlements were to be created, for which the individual farmsteads and villages offered the opportunity. However, not only farm workers were to be settled, but also craftsmen, millers, foresters, teachers and small traders were to be brought in to strengthen the German element, which had hitherto been represented almost exclusively by large landowners, and thus eliminate a mistake that once existed centuries ago in Germanization of

country was made by the Order of the Sword. These settlement preparations were particularly supported by the 1st General Staff Officer, Captain v. Rabenau was run in association with representatives of the large landowners on the staff, but

unfortunately all the work was in vain because our government later withdrew the division from Courland at the instigation of the Entente. The crews, who were promised resettlement land, felt that this was a breach of contract, as was the non-payment of the Balten allowance, and it took all the powers of persuasion of all superiors for the troops, with a few exceptions, to be led back to the corridor on the Vistula later in one body.

On April 3rd there was a mutiny in Libau against the commanding general Graf vd Goltz, which was put down by the intervention of the guardsmen, who had hastily been brought in by train from Mitau. At the front, the enemy seemed to strengthen during April; We, too, therefore drew up all available troops, and on April 12th the first battalion of the 64th Reserve Infantry Regiment arrived in Yanishki. Advances with strong patrols and detachments have local success; However, no significant changes could be detected in the enemy, even by the airmen.

At the beginning of May, the announcement came that the division was to take part in the intended seizure of Riga by the Baltic State Army and the Iron Division by pushing against the Düna, but at the same time that there was a possibility of being used in the corridor on the Vistula because the landing of the Polish Haller divisions in Pillau is suspected; for both companies: "cockroaches" or "Tannenberg" the preparations were made. Although our overall situation in the north-east became more dangerous due to the reinforcement of the Bolsheviks, in mid-May it was decided in Berlin to withdraw the German troops, but we advanced on May 22nd, while the Baltic State Army and the Iron Division took Riga by surprise. Relief far to the north-east, took Gr.-Ekan and advanced our line about 15 km (to Gut Grenzthal - Gut Alt-Raden - Gr.-Ekan - Ekan station [on the Mitau - Jakobstadt line]).

In the meantime, the final order to evacuate had arrived; the division was withdrawn and meanwhile retreated behind the Aa to the Mitau-Janischki-Langzargen-Tilsit railroad, where it remained idle for a few days, as trains were not running because of a railroad workers' strike. These days were still a hard test for discipline, and some went over to the troops remaining in the Baltic States because they felt the promises made to them had been deceived.

28 May to 11 June 19

On May 25, the first transports began via Tilsit - Insterburg - Gosslershausen - Graudenz. For the second time we crossed the German border in the most glorious spring splendor, from lack of culture to the highest culture, and yet again, like 6 months ago, in a sad, depressed mood with the question "How will it end?". Accommodation took place in the area of Graudenz - Culm and to the east.

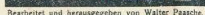
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not very pleasant. The situation was not clear at all, but in general an attack by the Poles in the corridor was expected, which was supposed to fall to them according to the peace treaty. The training for the counter-attack therefore began soon. The accommodation gradually improved and many teams came to terms with the

conditions at home, but the majority wanted to return to the Baltic States because of the higher allowance, better food and the possibility of resettlement. There were no more acts of war here.

After many efforts, it was possible to get the government to transfer the division to the Reichswehr as the "Big Reichswehr Brigade" in order to provide for officers and men; this promise has not been kept either; the undefeated 1st Guards Reserve Division, like all other parts of the army, was dissolved due to the violent peace. On June 11, 1919, Division Commander Major General Tiede, who had led the division for 2½ years, was the first to be transferred to the army officers at home as no longer usable.

T i e d e.



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